

Claims

1. A compacting mechanism for fitting to a surface over a refuse container, the compacting mechanism  
5 comprising a support member for fitting to the said surface, the support member having an aperture which in use is in register with an aperture in the said surface, a compacting plate mounted under the support member, an actuating rod, and means coupling the  
10 compacting plate to the actuating rod such that the rod may be manoeuvred from a storage position wherein the rod lies along the support member across the said surface and the plate is drawn up under the said surface to an operative position wherein the rod stands  
15 upright over the aperture in the support member and may be pushed downwardly through the registering apertures to push the plate down into the container.
2. A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 1,  
20 wherein the compacting plate is slidably and pivotally coupled to the actuating rod such that in the storage position of the rod the plate is coupled to the rod at a point intermediate its ends, the rod being manoeuvrable to its operative position by sliding the  
25 rod along its own axis until the coupling means reaches one end of the rod and then rotating the rod upwardly about said one end.
3. A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 2,  
30 wherein the support member comprises a channel member extending in use across the said surface, the aperture in the support member being formed in the base of the

channel and the actuating rod being located in and slidable along the channel.

4. A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 2 or 3,  
5 wherein the other end of the actuating rod has a handgrip.

5. A compacting mechanism as claimed in any one of  
claims 1 to 4, wherein the actuating rod is adjustable  
10 in length.

6. A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 4,  
wherein the actuating rod comprises at least two parts  
which are slidable one relative to the other to adjust  
15 the length of the rod.

7. A compacting mechanism as claimed in claim 6,  
wherein the actuating rod includes resilient retaining  
means for holding the two parts in an extended position  
20 of the rod, said resilient retaining means being  
overcome upon the compacting plate meeting a given  
resistance in use so that the one part retracts into  
the other to substantially cease further compaction.